

Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, First District  
500 West Temple Street, Room 856  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Via email to [FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov) and [EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV](mailto:EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV)

**SUBJECT: Support for Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance**

Dear Board Chair Solis:

I am writing to express my support for creating a county wide stewardship program for the safe and convenient disposal of unwanted medicines from households. Almost all of us have leftover or expired medicines in our homes, and many of us also have needles (medical sharps). We need a secure and safe way to dispose of these drugs and needles to protect our families and protect our environment.

I'm concerned about the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in my community, and how our home medicine cabinets have become the new drug dealers for our kids. Drug abuse is a complex problem, and a secure system for collecting leftover and expired medicines from households is an important part of the solution. I'm also concerned when needles from syringes aren't handled properly, putting our families and garbage/recycling workers at risk of dangerous needle sticks and infections.

My family has endured numerous medical challenges including the loss of our oldest daughter. Sensitivity to medications and improper access to Meds were always a concern for our family within our home and as we travelled. I understand more than most the cost of medical care and supplies. More importantly, I understand the higher price we ALL pay when proper controls are not in place for safety, health and environmental repercussions.

We appreciate the sheriff collection sites for medicines or for sharps in the county but they are not convenient, there are not enough of them and they're not easy enough to find and I don't want our law enforcement burdened with managing a health care industry product – the hospitals, doctors, pharmacies and drug companies should all share in the cost and responsibility to ensure safe management of these products. We also need more public education to not flush or trash and instead use the collection system.

It's time to ensure that all communities in our county have safe and convenient take-back locations for pharmaceuticals and sharps. To me, it just makes sense to have the manufacturers of the medicines and sharps provide a stewardship program for their products, just like they already do in other countries like Canada and Mexico.

**I support L.A. County ordinance and I ask the Board of Supervisors to pass it.**

Sincerely,

Ronald M. SHERGA

[Redacted Signature]

( in November of 2015, I opened up a mfg. facility in Compton, Ca. to make products that serve California and I spend half my time in the Los Angeles area.)

Shasta K. Palmer-Foster



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**SUBJECT: Support for Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance**

Dear Board Chair Solis:

I am writing to express my support for creating a county wide stewardship program for the safe and convenient disposal of unwanted medicines from households. I have been battling HIV/Aids since 1986. My general prescription regimen involves over 20 medications a month, half of which I may not even complete due to the toxic nature of my medications, and the fluctuation of my illness. As a result, I am oftentimes faced with the daunting task of finding local disposal options which are nearly non-existent in the Los Angeles area. My only option really being local Sheriff's office, or a drop event, that leaves me humiliated as I, a senior with Aids, shows up with over a trash can of what's considered "controlled substances/prescriptions". I, in addition to the thousands of other seniors, and all the people living with complicated illnesses, need safe, convenient, and respectable options for the disposal of these drugs and sharps needles. I want to do the right thing to ensure that the disposal of my medications does not harm the environment, and the only avenue to do that is dependent on our region's effort to take action on passing a Pharmaceutical and Sharps EPR Ordinance.

Not only am I worried about the impact my medications may cause on the environment, if not disposed of properly, I am concerned about the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in my community, and how our home medicine cabinets have become the new drug dealers for our kids. I live in a senior complex that houses many seniors along with their adult children and grandchildren, many of whom have fallen on tough times. I hate hearing about the potential risk these medications may pose to children or young adolescents when mistakenly or improperly used. Drug abuse is a complex problem, and a secure system for collecting leftover and expired medicines from households is an important part of the solution. I'm also concerned when needles from syringes aren't handled properly, putting our families and garbage/recycling workers at risk of dangerous needle sticks and infections. As part of my daughter's recycling specialist duties for a local municipal agency, she too is at risk of a needle stick when conducting waste audits. This is not acceptable, and will continue to be a problem, if people are forced to travel far distances to dispose of medications that are getting prescribed to them on a regular basis, as in my case on a daily basis.

I appreciate the sheriff collection sites for medicines or for sharps in the county but they are not convenient, there are not enough of them and they're not easy enough to find and I don't want our law enforcement burdened with managing a health care industry product – the hospitals, doctors, pharmacies and drug companies should all share in the cost and responsibility to ensure safe management of these products. I am at my doctor's office every other day, and pharmacy even more. With limited energy due to my illness, I do not have the time nor physical ability to regularly travel somewhere else, merely to throw away the dozens of medications that fill my one bedroom apartment

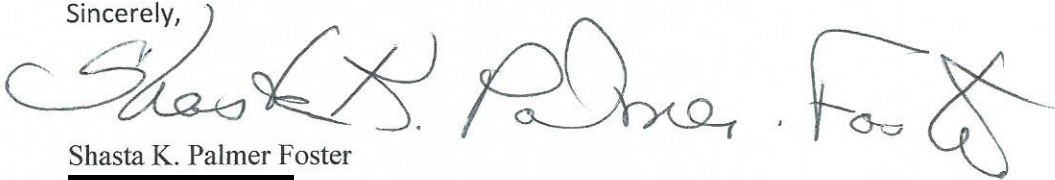
Shasta K. Palmer-Foster

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[REDACTED]  
every few months. We also need more public education to not flush or trash and instead use the collection system.

It's time to ensure that all communities in our county have safe and convenient take-back locations for pharmaceuticals and sharps. To me, it just makes sense to have the manufacturers of the medicines and sharps provide a stewardship program for their products, just like they already do in other countries like Canada and Mexico.

I support L.A. County ordinance and I ask the Board of Supervisors to pass it.

Sincerely,



Shasta K. Palmer Foster

